

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SANDPOINT CITY COUNCIL
October 3, 2018

OPENING Mayor Rognstad called the regular meeting of the City Council to order at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 3, 2018, in the Council chambers at City Hall, 1123 Lake Street.

ROLL CALL Council members Aitken, Aispuro and Williamson were present. Councilman Darling attended by phone. Council members Ruehle and Eddy were absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Mayor Rognstad led the Council and the public in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

PRESENTATION OF ROAD SCHOLAR TO CITY EMPLOYEE CHAD LARSON

Laila Kral, Deputy Administrator of the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC) T2 Center, presented a certificate to City employee Chad Larson, recognizing his completion of the Road Scholar Program.

PUBLIC FORUM

Erik Nelsen, Sandpoint resident, stated he is a board member of the Sandpoint Disc Golf Association. He suggested that their organization be involved in the City's plans for their property located on Baldy Mountain Road.

John Gaddess, Sandpoint resident, stated he is a member of the Sandpoint Disc Golf Association and urged the City to involve their organization in discussions of what may occur with the Baldy Mountain property.

Hannah Anderson, downtown business owner, announced the Downtown Shopping District will hold a Downtown Fest on October 25 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Downtown businesses will be open later, and bands will play downtown.

Brooke Moore, downtown business owner, said business owners will hang lights on the trees on Sunday, October 21, at 9:00 a.m., prior to the Downtown Fest, and urged the City to partner with them. She said Ting and Kochava will be partners in the event. City Administrator Jennifer Stapleton instructed Brooke Moore to coordinate with her on the tree lighting, as discussed with downtown businesses previously. The City will be decorating a majority of the trees this year with the goal to have all lights installed prior to Thanksgiving.

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP – GOOSE MANAGEMENT

Mayor Rognstad recessed the regular Council meeting and convened into a Council workshop at 5:42 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Director Kim Woodruff reported that Canada geese are federally protected by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Wildlife Services, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and the Idaho Fish and Game. The concern for the last 30 years is that the population of geese at City Beach have increased every year. Approximately two years ago, it became illegal to feed the geese at City Beach, which has

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had a positive effect. It costs the City \$5,000 to \$8,000 per year to sweep fecal matter from City parks, and the City purchased special sweeping equipment in the amount of \$27,300, funded through donations and grants. The City has spent \$5,500 per year, contracting a dog handler for the last three years and purchasing coyote decoys in the amount of \$1,500. These tools have proven not to be as effective as expected. He said he receives several complaints per week during the summer season from residents, tourists and moorage customers, with concerns about the geese feces. **Mayor Rognstad** commented that he receives several comments from the public and tourists regarding the geese issue, as well. A member of the public reported that a private survey is available on the Sandpoint Rant and Rave Facebook page, seeking feedback on long term planning at City Beach. City Administrator Jennifer Stapleton said a City-sanctioned survey will be available in the near future, which will assist in a Parks Master Plan and City Beach Master Plan.

Health concerns are that geese fecal matter carries e-coli. **Councilwoman Williamson** commented that there have been documented increases of e-coli at City Beach, which raises concern with recreation, although it's difficult to determine where the e-coli is coming from.

Other options to deter geese that have not been implemented are to use physical harassment tools, such as paintball guns, rubber shots, or repellants, which can be expensive, or egg oiling, but it can be difficult to find their nests. Geese capture can be done by using funnel traps or by using alpha-chloralose, which puts the geese to sleep for a short period of time. Alpha chloralose is applied to food by someone who is certified. Capturing methods occur when the geese molt.

Kim Woodruff noted that USDA Wildlife Services is specifically tasked with providing assistance in dealing with conflicts between people and wildlife. He said that Wildlife Services Director Todd Grimm has offered to arrange a meeting with the City and other agencies to explore options. The meeting may result in a proposed cooperative service agreement with USDA Wildlife Services for capture and physical control methods. The proposed agreement will be presented to City Council for discussion and authorization. Mr. Woodruff said he talked to the City of Idaho Falls, which utilized USDA Wildlife Services. They reported that this service proved to be very beneficial in significantly decreasing their geese population. The Idaho Fish and Game will be involved in capturing the geese. It is the agencies' responsibility to implement the management plan for the geese. City staff can be involved in capturing the geese in order to keep costs down. The geese issue was discussed by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Mr. Woodruff said that the cost to enter into an agreement with Wildlife Services would be less than \$5,000, and this amount is allocated within the budget. Information for the public will be available on the City's website, and the public will have an opportunity to provide feedback. City Administrator Jennifer Stapleton said that the City is limited in what it can do because the geese are federally protected. The Federal and State agencies will explore resolutions. The City continues to budget every year for solutions, but the tools used have not been effective. Mr. Woodruff said that the goal is to have a continual partnership with Federal and State agencies.

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Mayor Rognstad called for a recess at 6:19 p.m. and reconvened into the regular Council meeting at 6:22 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Rognstad announced that scoping comments on the proposed silicon smelter in Newport, Washington, will be discussed during the October 17 City Council meeting.

City Administrator Jennifer Stapleton announced that the draft Wastewater Treatment Facility Plan is available for review on the City's website. The plan will be on the October 17th Council agenda for adoption. There will be several topics brought forward to future Council agendas starting this month through December. A proposed new policy and guideline for special events will be reviewed during a Council workshop at the next Council meeting, which will provide clarity between events at City parks and on City streets and other public rights of way. A final presentation and decision on turf options for Memorial Field will be presented, along with additional public dialogue. A Citizen's Advisory Committee met to discuss turf options, and the City will include Open Town Hall functionality for public involvement. A workshop was held to discuss turf options earlier this summer. Clarification on costs and outstanding issues will be discussed. Another workshop to be scheduled late November or late December will pertain to sidewalk issues, utilizing Open Town Hall for public input. She said that City announcements will be available through Engage Sandpoint and on the City's Facebook page.

Ms. Stapleton announced that the annual City leaf pick-up starts November 13th. She pointed out that the leaves are not be left in bags, and this pick-up does not include branches. More information is available on Engage Sandpoint. Walk to School Day is October 10th, and the City will be partnering with the school district on this event. She encouraged the public to join in. Reflective stickers will be provided to the students. The City has developed a plan for installing downtown tree lighting that will be available this week. At the recommendation of the Mayor, there has been a conversion for energy conservation utilizing LED lights. It will take approximately two years to accomplish this goal. The LED lights are kept on the trees for three years.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilwoman Williamson moved that items A-1 through B be approved. **Councilman Aitken seconded the motion.**

A roll call vote resulted as follows:

Councilwoman Ruehle	Absent
Councilman Aitken	Yes
Councilman Aispuro	Yes
Councilman Darling	Yes
Councilwoman Williamson	Yes
Councilman Eddy	Absent

The motion passed by a unanimous vote of Council present.

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A. MINUTES

A-1 City Council regular minutes of September 19, 2018

A-2 Historic Preservation Commission minutes of August 21, 2018

A-3 Arts Commission minutes of July 10, 2018

A-4 Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee minutes of August 15, 2018

A-5 Tree Committee minutes of August 13, 2018

B. Bills in the total amount of \$579,566.13 for regular payables.

NEW BUSINESS

C. REQUEST FOR SEWER CHARGE REDUCTION AT 1233 MICHIGAN

Councilman Aispuro moved that City Council approve the recommendation from the Public Works Department to waive the sewer charge in excess of normal usage for the month when the leak was present at 1233 Michigan. **Councilwoman Williamson seconded the motion.** **Councilman Aitken** divulged that he is a tenant at this building.

A roll call vote resulted as follows:

Councilman Aitken	Abstain
Councilman Aispuro	Yes
Councilman Darling	Yes
Councilwoman Williamson	Yes
Councilman Eddy	Absent
Councilwoman Ruehle	Absent

The motion passed by a unanimous vote of Council present.

D. CANINE OFFICER HARLEY RETIREMENT

Captain Rick Bailey stated that Canine Officer Harley was adopted from MCPAWS in Meridian, Idaho, in September 2008. Canine Officer Harley went through vigorous testing to be certified as a narcotics canine. Harley has been with the Sandpoint Police Department for ten years and has been an integral part of the team. He has been with his handler, Officer Valenzuela, for six years, and it has been requested that Harley be released to his current handler at no cost to the City.

Councilman Aitken moved that City Council declare that Canine Officer Harley is retired and is to be released to Officer Mike Valenzuela. **Councilman Aispuro seconded the motion.**

A roll call vote resulted as follows:

Councilman Aispuro	Yes
Councilman Darling	Yes
Councilwoman Williamson	Yes
Councilman Eddy	Absent
Councilwoman Ruehle	Absent
Councilman Aitken	Yes

The motion passed by a unanimous vote of Council present.

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ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Shelby Rognstad, Mayor

ATTEST:

Maree Peck, City Clerk

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